

RECORD OF NEW FISH COMMISSIONER

Dr. Smith Unusually Well Fitted for Duties of His Position.

The appointment of Dr. Hugh M. Smith, the new commissioner of Fisheries who succeeds George W. Bowers, resigned, meets with general approval on all sides and it seems that President Wilson could not have made a more fitting or popular choice than he has in the selection of one who has long been identified with the department and rendered such valuable service for the advancement of the fisheries.

Speaking of the appointment, the Fishing Gazette publishes the following:

"Dr. Smith is a man of long practical experience and is eminently qualified for his new position. We give below his record in detail:

"Entered service of U. S. Fish Commission, in 1886; from 1887-1893, six promotions under Commissioners Baird, Goode and McDonald; from 1893-1897, assistant in charge, division of statistics and methods of the fisheries; from 1897-1903, assistant in charge, division of inquiry respecting food fishes and the fishing grounds; from 1903-1913, deputy commissioner, a position specially created by Congress; from 1891-1892, co-special agent of Eleventh Census in charge of fisheries; 1892, representative of the United States at the First International Fishery Congress, Paris; 1892, representative of the United States at the World's Fair Congress, Chicago; 1901-1902, director of the marine-biological laboratory of the Bureau of Fisheries, Woods Hole, Mass.; 1905, representative of the United States at the Third International Fishery Congress, Vienna; 1906-1912, expert adviser of Food and Drugs Board and of Bureau of Chemistry in fishery cases arising under the pure food and drugs act; 1907-1910, director of Albatross expedition for investigation of the fisheries and aquatic resources of the Philippine Islands; 1908, representative of the United States at the Fourth International Fishery Congress, Washington, 1910, expert special assistant of the United States counsel at the arbitration of the North Atlantic Fisheries Dispute at The Hague; 1910, named by United States Government as its member of international commission for adjudication of disputes arising under the award of The Hague arbitration tribunal; 1912, representative of the United States Government on the Permanent International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

"In addition to the official positions noted, Dr. Smith has held the following unofficial posts: 1893, chairman Section of Commercial Fisheries, World's Fishery Congress; 1898, secretary National Fishery Congress; 1904, chairman International Jury on Fish Culture, Louisiana Purchase Exposition; 1908, secretary-general Fourth International Fishery Congress, Washington; 1888-1902, medical faculty University of Georgetown; professor 1895-1902; 1909-1913, member research committee National Geographic Society, and associate editor "National Geographic Magazine."

"He is associated with the following societies: American Association for Advancement of Science (fellow); American Society of Naturalists; American Fisheries Society (president 1907-08); American Ornithologists' Union; Imperial Russian Society of Fish Culture and Fisheries (honorary member); Imperial and Royal Austrian Fishery Society (honorary member and medalist); German Sea Fishery Society (corresponding member); Hamburg Fishery Society (corresponding member); Swedish Fishery Association (corresponding member); Salmon and Trout Association of Great Britain and Ireland (honorary member); Medical Society of the District of Columbia; Washington Academy of Sciences; Biological Society of Washington.

"He has visited every part of the United States and made examination of all branches of the fisheries. He has also made special investigations of the fisheries and fish culture of various foreign countries, including France, England, Scotland and Holland (1900), Japan (1903, 1907), Norway (1905), China, Ceylon (1907, 1908), Holland (1910), England, Germany, Denmark (1912).

"His publications include several hundred papers, monographs, etc., dealing with economic, legal, international and scientific phases of the fisheries and agriculture of United States and foreign countries.

"In a word it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a man better equipped for the responsible position of head of the Bureau of Fisheries.

"We look forward confidently to an exceptionally intelligent administration of the affairs of the bureau."

Boats Getting Halibut.

That halibut are everywhere seems to be borne out by the frequent catches that are being made around the shores these days, by the smaller crafts.

Saturday afternoon, the Rockport boat Melicia Enos landed 1500 weight of halibut in addition to her cod fare, while sch. Marguerite McKenzie had 1000 pounds also. Both crafts took their halibut off Rockport.

Ice Fields Moving South.

A message from the revenue cutter Seneca, stating that the ice fields are rapidly moving southward, was picked up Saturday by the radio station at Newport. The Seneca, which is protecting the Atlantic steamship lanes, gave its position at latitude north 43.41, longitude west 49.01. The message was addressed to the hydrograph office in New York.

Baited at Edgartown.

Sch. Margie Turner baited at Edgartown, Monday and sailed for Georges. Alewives are still reported plentiful at Edgartown.

Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Margaret is at Portland today with 50,000 pounds of fresh halibut.

Bank halibut, 9 3-4c for white and 7c for gray.

FRENCH BANKER LOST, CREW SAVED

The first disaster to the French fleet of bankers this season was learned yesterday, when 26 men of the French brigantine Anemone arrived at St. Pierre, Miq., on the brigantine Surcouf, and reported the loss of their craft on Quero last Friday.

The Anemone sprang a bad leak and the crew had to take to the boats before the vessel sank. They were picked up by the Surcouf, bound from Port Cancale, France, for St. Pierre. The Anemone sailed from Port St. Malo and was insured.

Big Red Snapper Fishing.

Red snapper fishing in Florida waters is better than ever this season. Great numbers of the finest specimens are brought to the markets daily and it is said that they are bringing a much better price than the bluefish at present. Drum fish are being caught in such great quantities that they are not reckoned as marketable at all. The black fish, which are of the finest variety of food fish, are also being caught in paying quantities.

NEWS FOR THE LAKE FISHERS

Huron, O., May 10.—Capt. Downing, who has charge of the United States hatcheries at Put-in-Bay, has completed the work of planting the output of whitefish for this season's hatch. There were nearly 200,000,000 of the fry placed in the lake in the vicinity of the islands and the shoal places by the United States hatcheries alone. This is more than would be supplied by the forces of nature in three years' time. The per cent. of the hatch this spring was over 75 per cent. which is a banner year. At the State hatcheries there has been equally as good a yield and many of both the whitefish and herring have been planted. The supply of pickerel spawn this spring is very light, and is accounted for as the result of the floods, which have caused so much bad water along the shores of the lake.

Maiden Rock, Wis., May 13.—Because of the finding of a \$1500 fresh water pearl here the town has all but gone mad over the prospect of swollen fortunes, and nearly everybody has quit working to fish the neighboring streams.

Kingston, N. Y., May 10.—Kingston fishermen were at a loss to account for the extraordinary run of trout in the Esopus stream this year, until it was learned that, in addition to the stream being stocked with 6000 yearling trout a year ago, during the flood a few weeks ago, Cruickshank's breeding ponds at Big Indian had sprungaleak and released about 10,000 matured trout into the stream.

It is estimated that nearly 1,000,000 fingerlings went out with the larger fish, which were of the speckled brook trout, German browns, mottled, California, rainbow and Adirondacks salmon varieties.

Trout by the barrelful have been caught in the upper Esopus this season, and as far down as the stream as Hurley, something that has not been known for many years. It is likely that trout fishing in the Esopus will be good now for many years.

LaCrosse, Wis., May 10.—The annual outrage of seining the lagoon in Pet-

tibone Park, which is stocked with fish, has again taken place and hundreds of dead fish were dropped along the shore. The local game warden is helpless in the matter, for while the park belongs to the city of LaCrosse, having been donated to it at a cost of \$100,000, it is located in the State of Minnesota and under Minnesota jurisdiction.—Fishing Gazette.

May 21.

SALMON KNOWN BY SCALES.

Expert Can Tell Age of Fish by Rings on Scales.

During the summers of 1910 and 1911, Charles H. Gilbert, professor of zoology in Stanford University, studied the Pacific Coast salmon for the United States Bureau of Fisheries, with a view to determining the age at maturity and such other facts of the life history of the fish as could be learned from a scrutiny of their scales.

According to Prof. Gilbert, all salmon of the genus oncorhynchus, with the possible exception of certain male king salmon, perish when they have attained maturity. They spawn but once and then die, whatever their age or whatever their physical condition at the time of spawning. It is this peculiarity that renders the matter of their age at maturity important.

Many efforts have been made to solve this point of age at maturity of the fish by marking the artificially reared fry of the king salmon and of the sock-eye salmon by clipping one or two of their fins before they are liberated, with the idea of their being recognized upon their return at maturity. Reliable data from these experiments have not yet been obtained.

Prof. Gilbert maintains that a study of the scales of the salmon is the most reliable method of determining their age, as the rings on the scales can be read in much the same way as can those showing growth of a tree. Such salmon as stay in fresh water until they are yearlings show the effect of this residence in the markings on their scales.

In the late spring and summer the growth of the fish is rapid and is shown in the widely separated rings in the scales, while the slower growth of the colder months is indicated by the narrowing of the bands or rings. The general idea is that the narrow or closely arranged rings on the scales indicates one winter each in the life of the fish.

From his two years of study of the scales of the Pacific Coast salmon Prof. Gilbert has concluded: That the sock-eye spawns normally either in its fourth or fifth year, the king salmon in its fourth, fifth or even seventh year, the females of both species being preponderantly four-year-fish.

He finds that the young of both sockeye and king salmon may migrate seaward shortly after hatching, or may reside in fresh water until their second spring.

Coho salmon spawn normally only in their third year. The young migrate either as fry or yearlings, but adults are developed almost exclusively from those which migrate as yearlings.

Dog salmon mature normally either in their third, fourth or fifth years, the humpback always in the second year. The young of both these species pass to sea as soon as they are free swimming.

He says the term "grilse," as used for Pacific salmon signifies conspicuously undersized fish which sparingly accompany the spawning run. They are precociously developed in advance of the normal spawning period of the species. The larger "grilse" meet or overlap in size the smaller of those individuals which mature one year later at the normal period.

"Grilse" of the sockeye are in their third year, of the king salmon in their second or third year, of the coho and the dog salmon in their second year.

Good Stock.

Sch. Monitor, Capt. George Marr, stocked \$2600 on her recent halibuting trip, the crew's share being \$70 to a man.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Norma, mackerel seining, arrived at Liverpool Saturday last. Schs. Kineo and Senator arrived at Hawkesbury, Saturday, bound north.

Going Seining.

Str. Orion, Capt. John H. Dahlmar has abandoned gill netting for the season and will now fit for seining.

SCH. CAVALIER'S MEN MADE \$100

Sch. Cavalier, Capt. Robert Porper, stocked \$4550 as the result of her recent four weeks halibuting trip, the crew sharing \$100.24 to a man clear.

May 21.

RECEIPTS HERE FOR APRIL

Fish receipts at this port during the month of April totaled 5,374,746 pounds against 7,627,193 pounds for the corresponding month of 1912, according to the statistical bulletin of the Board of Trade just issued.

The statement and comparison by quantities is as follows:

|                | 1913.     | 1912.     |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                | Pounds.   | Pounds.   |
| Salt cod.....  | 491,510   | 832,972   |
| Fresh cod..... | 2,144,800 | 1,899,092 |
| Halibut.....   | 446,798   | 148,287   |
| Fresh haddock  | 1,323,465 |           |
| Salt haddock   | 15,800    | 1,339,265 |
| Fresh hake     | 168,561   |           |
| Salt hake      | 4,850     | 175,411   |
| Fresh cusk     | 205,107   | 255,722   |
| Salt cusk      | 2,515     |           |
| Fresh pollock  | 207,622   | 303,629   |
| Salt pollock   | 566,675   |           |
| Fresh flitches | 4,150     | 570,825   |
| Flitches       | 515       | 233,352   |
|                |           | 925       |
| Total.....     | 5,374,746 | 7,627,193 |



## GILL NETTERS HAULING OUT

**Many of Them Now at Pollock Seining—Few Arrivals Here Today.**

This morning's fleet here consisted of one Georgesman and several fresh fares down from Boston to split.

Yesterday afternoon, sch. Senator Saulsbury arrived from a handline trip, her haul being for 25,000 weight of salt cod and 2000 pounds of fresh halibut. Schs. Harriett and Jeanette brought down from Boston 50,000 pounds of fresh mixed fish left over from yesterday's market, while sch. Albert W. Black had 25,000 pounds.

The gill netters had less than 10,000 pounds yesterday. One by one the little fleet is giving up for the summer and by the first of June nearly all will have pulled out of the fishery.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Senator Saulsbury, Georges handlining, 25,000 lbs. salt cod, 2000 lbs. fresh halibut.

Sch. Jeanette, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Harriett, via Boston, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Albert W. Black, via Boston, 25,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 2300 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Lorena, gill netting, 1600 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Mystery, gill netting, 600 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Carrie and Mildred, gill netting, 1300 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 600 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Prince Olaf, gill netting, 1100 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Orion, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Josephine DeCosta, via Boston.

Sch. Maud F. Silva, halibuting.

Str. Bethulia, pollock seining, 30,000 lbs. fresh pollock.

Str. R. J. Kellick, pollock seining, 5000 lbs. fresh pollock.

Str. Ethel, pollock seining, 15,000 lbs. fresh pollock.

Str. Advance, pollock seining, 30,000 lbs. fresh pollock.

Str. Rough Rider, pollock seining, 10,000 lbs. fresh pollock.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Mary F. Sears, haddocking.

Sch. Progress, (new) haddocking.

Sch. Harmony, halibuting.

Sch. Etta Mildred, salt drifting.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3.

Drift codfish, large, \$4.50 per cwt.; medium, \$4.

Cape North codfish, large, \$4; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50.

Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4.

Cusk, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Hake, \$1.50.

Pollock, \$1.50.

Haddock, \$1.50.

#### Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:

Haddock, 90c per cwt.

Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$2; snappers, 75c.

Peak cod, large, \$2 medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.

Cape North cod, large \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.

All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, 90c.

Cusk, large, \$1.40; mediums, \$1; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock, 80c, round, 70c.

Bank halibut, 9 3-4c for white and 7c for gray.

## ERNEST PARSONS FILLS PONTIAC

**Brings 150,000 Pounds of Fresh Cod and Will Make Big Stock.**

But for the arrival of sch. Pontiac with a fare of 150,000 pounds of fresh cod, T wharf market would have been rather short, only nine other fares, mostly from the shore being in this morning.

Prices took a jump over yesterday and trading was reported very good. Wholesalers paid \$3.25 to \$5.50 a hundred for large cod, \$4 to \$4.75 for small cod, \$3 to \$3.50 for market cod, \$1 for hake, \$1.50 for pollock and 9 cents right through for halibut.

### Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Louisa R. Sylvia, 11,000 haddock, 11,000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Mary Edith, 200 haddock, 5000 cod, 16,000 hake, 1500 cusk.

Sch. Pontiac, 150,000 cod, 2000 halibut.

Sch. Edith Silveria, 8000 haddock, 3500 cod, 1500 hake, 2000 cusk, 300 halibut.

Sch. Olive F. Hutchings, 2500 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Rose Standish, 19,000 cod.

Str. Swell, 37,000 haddock, 200 cod, 1300 lemon sole.

Sch. Eleanor DeCosta, 13,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 11,000 hake.

Sch. W. M. Goodspeed, 34,000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Eva and Mildred, 20,000 cod, 1000 hake, 5000 halibut.

Haddock, \$3.25 to \$5.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$4 to \$4.75; market cod, \$3 to \$3.50; hake, \$1 to \$2; pollock, \$1.50; halibut 9 cents for white and gray.

## BIG TRAP HAUL AT YARMOUTH

Latest advices from the Cape Shore this morning states that 140 barrels of fresh mackerel were taken in the traps at Yarmouth last evening, it being the largest haul of fish this season on the Nova Scotia coast.

The bulk of the seining fleet are now on the Cape Shore and fish should be showing up most any day. Reports from there this morning state that the weather continues fine.

This morning's netting fares at New York are as follows:

Sch. Rattler, 350 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Diana, 600 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Reliance, 1100 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Freedom, 600 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Rita, 300 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Louise, 400 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Alert, 350 fresh mackerel.

Sch. Squanto is here from Boston to fit for mackerel seining under command of Capt. William Foley.

## SEINER ASHORE AND FLOATED

Sch. Clontonia, Capt. Fred Carritt, while going into Port Medway for harbor yesterday, went aground, starting her leaking, according to a message received by her owners last evening.

Just how the accident happened was not stated. Capt. Carritt secured a tow boat and the craft was pulled off and will be taken to Halifax to go on the slip. Although leaking, it is not believed that the craft is seriously damaged.

# TO CUT FISH IN NEWFOUNDLAND

**Boston Business Man Has Started a Plant—Local Man In Charge—Shows What New Tariff Will Do.**

John J. Field, for many years employed in the fish skinning department of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company at the Pew branch, has resigned his position to accept an opening with the Orr Newfoundland Company, Limited, as foreman in its boneless plant.

Mr. Orr, who is a Boston business man, is among the first of the Americans to take advantage of the new tariff bill, and the great possibilities which have been opened up to do business in Canadian and Newfoundland ports in the manufacture of fish products for the American market. It only goes to show what the removal

of the duty on fish means to the American fishing interests, for the organization of the Orr Company will no doubt be followed by the formation of others.

The concern with whom Mr. Field will be located is preparing to go into the manufacture of boneless fish extensively. They will be located at Burnt Island, on the Newfoundland west coast.

Mr. Fields is well known in local labor circles, being a prominent member of the Fish Skinners, Trimmers, Cutters and Pressmen's Union. He was one of the union delegates recently sent to Washington to protest against the removal of duty on foreign fish entering the American market.

### Newfoundland West Coast Fishery.

The Portia reports practically no fish at Cape St. Mary's. Many boats were out there last week, but secured very little. Some had a quintal, others had only one fish, while others had none at all.

Fish are also very scarce in Placentia Bay, as far west as Burin. Other seasons fish would be reported at many parts of the Bay.

St. Lawrence last Tuesday one dogfish was hooked and not another has been seen since. Rose Blanche and Channel report plenty of fish.

Whales are also scarce at Bay of Islands and at Bay St. George there is a fair sign of herring.

### Bait Herring Report.

Amherst Harbor, Magdalen Islands, May 17.—No herring at Amherst; plenty at Grindstone, Grand Entry, House Harbor. Too rough to go out at Etang du Nord.

spots, but he has some old stuff that counts and has delivered it without the clash of cymbals or the toot of trumpets.

## WOULD WATCH LEGISLATION

**Power Boat Owners Urged to Have Agent to Watch Out for Freak Bills.**

A proposal of interest to owners of power boats came from Representative William J. Leslie of Quincy Thursday night at the banquet and formal opening of the Squantum Y. C.

In effect it was to have a legislative agent working in the interests of the power boat owners on Beacon Hill to prevent foolish and hostile power boat legislation.

There is scarcely one power boat man out of a thousand who follows what is brought up in the Legislature, and there are comparatively few who know that at this session of the Legislature there were needless bills proposed which, if passed, would act to the detriment of the sport. It is safe to say that these bills were drawn by people who know little of the sport, and it is certain that many of the "solons" know no more.

It has been proposed that power boats be licensed as are automobiles; why, is a mystery. It has been proposed to oblige power boats in these waters to be numbered with letters at least three inches tall, or in place of numbers to have the name of the boat

### Porto Rico Fish Market.

Codfish.—Arrivals were rather light at this port and market shows an upward trend. Sales of medium cod have been made by selves at from \$32.50 to \$33 net ex wharf.

Ponce prices are very much below ours, and there are reports of sales as low as \$29.

Pollock and haddock.—Owing to more liberal receipts, demand has fallen off, and prices are declining. We quote about \$22 to \$22.50 net ex wharf.—Reported May 6 by S. Ramirez & Co., San Juan, Porto Rico.

### Good Stock.

Capt. Harry Ross, of the American schooner Effie M. Morrissey, and owned by Digby parties, is keeping up his record as a hustler. Ten days ago he arrived at Portland from a fresh fishing trip, stocking \$3,185, and this week was spoken on the banks with his usual luck, hauling for 55,000 pounds of fresh halibut, cusk and cod. The Morrissey has a crew of 22 men in all from Digby.—Yarmouth, N. S., Post.

### Good For Capt. Charlie!

One of the largest catches of halibut landed at Halifax this year was that by schooner Ella M. Rudolph, Capt. Charles Rudolph, Tuesday afternoon. She hauled for 25,000 weight of halibut alone and the crew stood to share a good stock.

### Halibut at Seattle.

Captain C. A. Norton's halibut schooner McKinley arrived at Seattle Monday morning with 40,000 pounds of halibut caught in the north. The McKinley left Anacortes two weeks ago on her first trip since being rebuilt.

Captain Norton left for Seattle on Monday night and spent a few days there disposing of the big catch and outfitting the ship for her next voyage.

### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Schs. Lucania, Lillian, Esperanto and Selma arrived at Liverpool Monday last and cleared for fishing.

### New Lobster Smack at T Wharf.

Capt. W. O. Wallace docked the new lobster smack Conqueror at Commercial wharf, Boston, yesterday morning, having brought her from Rockport, where she was built.

She is the second lobster smack ever built in this state, the first one having been launched from Rockport a few months ago. The new boat, built specially for A. L. Young, vice president of the Boston Lobster Exchange, is 60 feet long with a 14-foot beam and a depth of 7 feet. She carries a well with a capacity for 9000 live lobsters. Her trial trip took place yesterday afternoon.